

# The Comprehensive Course for Accessing 2020 Census Redistricting Data

Explore and learn the different methods to access P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data

Instructors: Mary Leisenring and Alexandra Barker

U.S. Census Bureau

[Census.gov/academy](https://www.census.gov/academy)



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Access interface. The title bar indicates the file is "2020PL\_SummaryFile\_Shell : Database- H:\CENSUS ACADEMY..." and the user is "Alexandra S Barker (CENSUS...)". The ribbon includes tabs for File, Home, Create, External Data, Database Tools, and Help. The "Home" tab is active, showing options for View, Paste, Filter, Sort & Filter, Refresh, Save, Delete, and Find. The "All Access Objects" pane on the left shows a list of tables and queries. The "Example\_Query\_DataSegment1 Blocks" table is selected, displaying a datasheet view with columns: SUMLEV, GEOCODE, GEOID, NAME, and BASE. The data shows a list of census blocks for a specific geographic area, with the first row highlighted in yellow.

SUMLEV	GEOCODE	GEOID	NAME	BASE
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1000	1000
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1001	1001
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1002	1002
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1003	1003
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1004	1004
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1005	1005
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1006	1006
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1007	1007
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1008	1008
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1009	1009
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1010	1010
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1011	1011
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1012	1012
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1013	1013
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1014	1014
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1015	1015
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1016	1016
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1017	1017
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1018	1018
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1019	1019
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1020	1020
750	4400700010110	7500000US4400	Block 1021	1021
750	4400700010120	7500000US4400	Block 2000	2000
750	4400700010120	7500000US4400	Block 2001	2001
750	4400700010120	7500000US4400	Block 2002	2002

Record: 1 of 12600 | No Filter | Search

Datasheet View

# Learning Objectives

---

## At the end of this training, you will...

**Part 1:** Learn what redistricting data are, its purposes and uses, available sources and formats.

Discover specific data available now, the methods you can use to access these data, and the resources you may need to download and analyze the data.

**Part 2:** Learn how to locate, access and download data using different methods and tools according to your needs and skill level. This includes FTP files, mapping and visualizations, tools, [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov), and the Census API.

# Your Learning Path

## Part 1: Important to Know

### **Lesson 1: What Is Redistricting?**

The 2020 Census and the Redistricting Data Program

### **Lesson 2: Understanding the Data**

What are the 2020 Census Redistricting (P.L. 94-171) Summary Files, Topics, and Geographies

### **Lesson 3: Ways to Access Redistricting Data**

Tools and Resources

## Part 2: The Data

### Pathway 1: FTP

Lessons 4-8

### Pathway 2: Data Visualizations

Lesson 9

### Pathway 3: [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)

Lesson 10

### Pathway 4: API Lessons 11-12

# Lesson 1: What Is Redistricting?

The 2020 Census and the  
Redistricting Data Program

What Is Redistricting Data

# What is Redistricting?



- ✓ Redistricting is when state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states after each census. This accounts for population shifts since the last census.
- ✓ Under the provisions of Title 13, Section 141(c) of the United States Code (U.S.C.), the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) is required to provide the “officers or public bodies having initial responsibility for the legislative apportionment or districting of each state ...” with the opportunity to specify geographic areas (e.g., blocks, voting districts) for which they wish to receive decennial census population counts for the purpose of reapportionment or redistricting.



# 2020 Census

---

- ✓ The Constitution of the United States, Article I, Section 2, directs that a census of the population be taken every 10 years for the purpose of reapportionment and redistricting.
- ✓ The 2020 Census counted every person living in the United States and the five U.S. territories. It marked the 24th census in U.S. history and the first time that households were invited to respond to the census online.


# Redistricting Data Program

---

The 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program provides states the opportunity to delineate voting districts and to suggest census block boundaries for use in the 2020 Census redistricting data tabulations (Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data File).



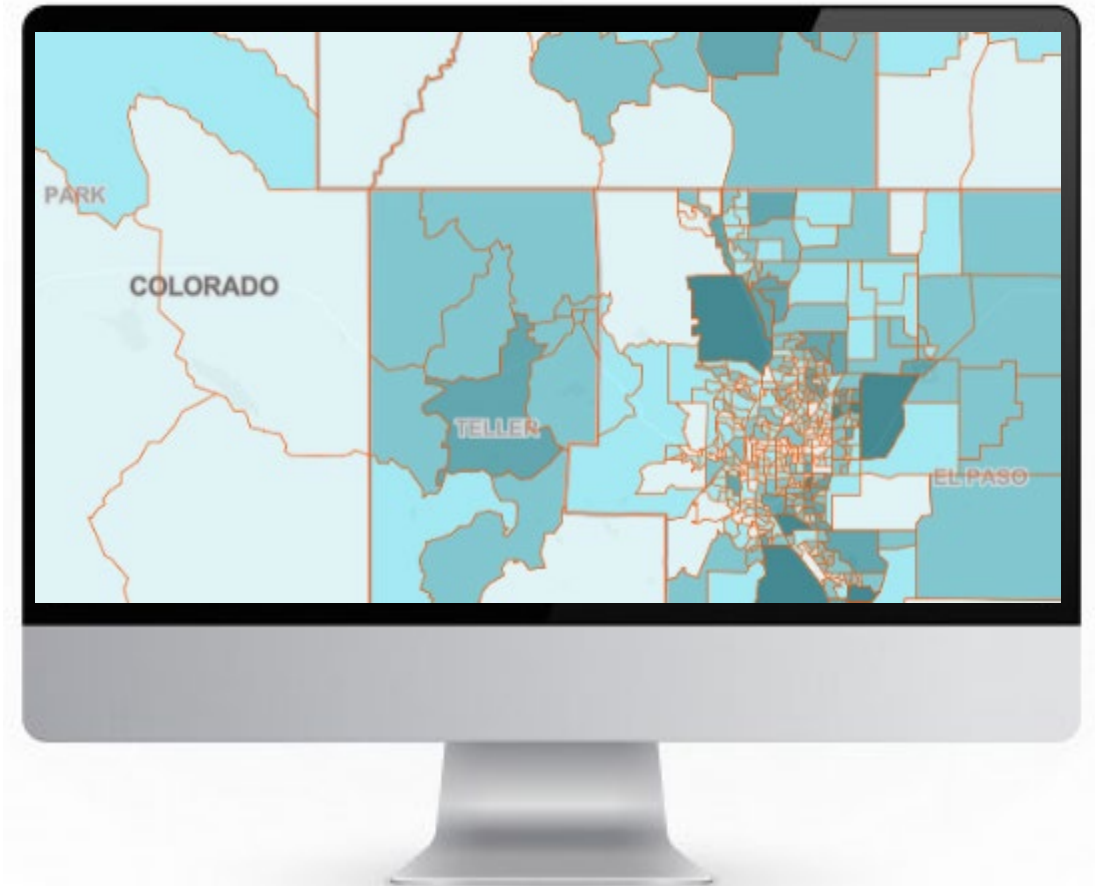
# 5 Phases of the Redistricting Data Program

- 
- **Phase 1 - Block Boundary Suggestion Project**
  - Phase 2 - Voting District Project
  - Phase 3 - Delivery of the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Files and Geographic Products
  - Phase 4 - Collection of Post-2020 Census Redistricting Plans
  - Phase 5 - Evaluation of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program and Recommendations for 2030



# 5 Phases of the Redistricting Data Program

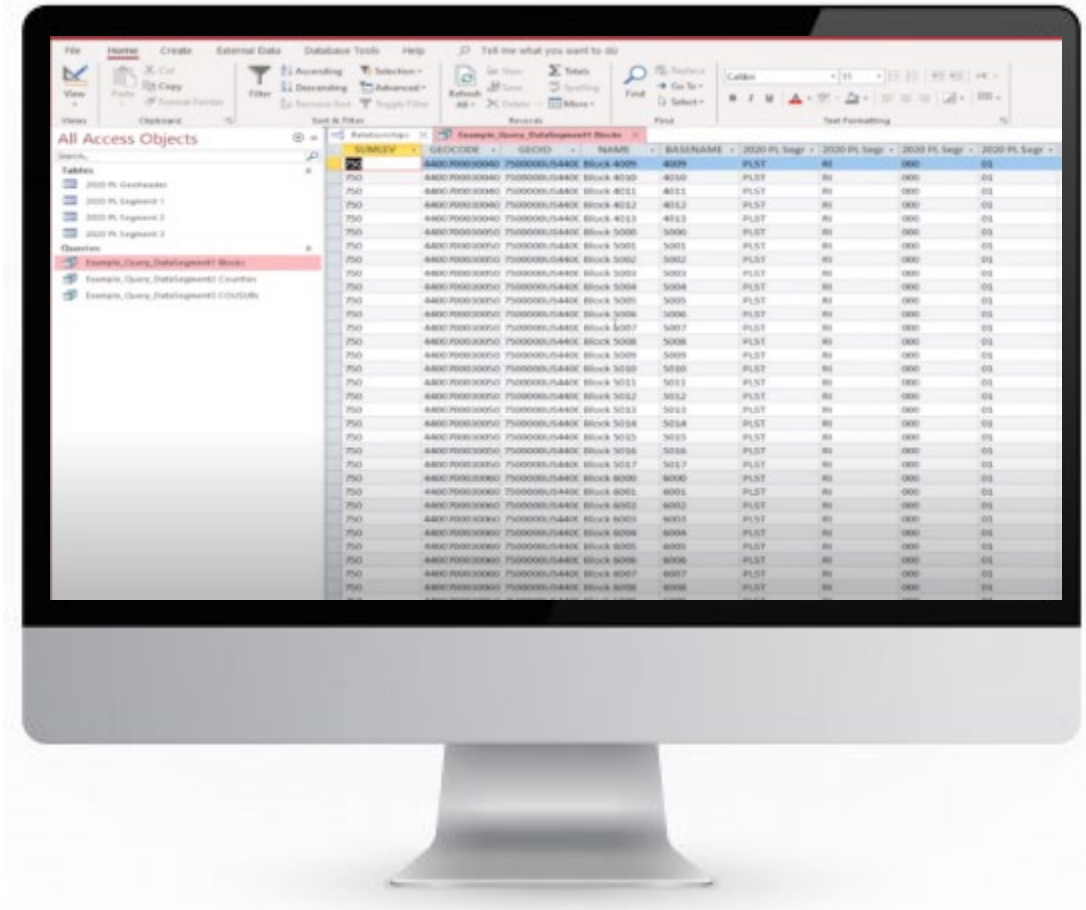
- Phase 1 - Block Boundary Suggestion Project
- **Phase 2 - Voting District Project**
- Phase 3 - Delivery of the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Files and Geographic Products
- Phase 4 - Collection of Post-2020 Census Redistricting Plans
- Phase 5 - Evaluation of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program and Recommendations for 2030





# 5 Phases of the Redistricting Data Program

- Phase 1 - Block Boundary Suggestion Project
- Phase 2 - Voting District Project
- **Phase 3 - Delivery of the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Files and Geographic Products**
- Phase 4 - Collection of Post-2020 Census Redistricting Plans
- Phase 5 - Evaluation of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program and Recommendations for 2030



GEOID	NAME	BASENAME	2020 PL	2020 PL	2020 PL	2020 PL
7501	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7502	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7503	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7504	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7505	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7506	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7507	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7508	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7509	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7510	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7511	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7512	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7513	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7514	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7515	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7516	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7517	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7518	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7519	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7520	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7521	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7522	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7523	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7524	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7525	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7526	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7527	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7528	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7529	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000
7530	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	Example, Query, Subsegment1 Blocks	0000	0000	0000	0000

# 5 Phases of the Redistricting Data Program

---

- Phase 1 - Block Boundary Suggestion Project
- Phase 2 - Voting District Project
- Phase 3 - Delivery of the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Files and Geographic Products
- **Phase 4 - Collection of Post-2020 Census Redistricting Plans**
- **Phase 5 - Evaluation of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program and Recommendations for 2030**



Questions? Contact the Redistricting and Voting  
Rights Data Office at [RDO@CENSUS.GOV](mailto:RDO@CENSUS.GOV) OR  
301-763-4039

# Lesson 1 Recap

Release of additional  
Decennial Census Data  
Products

